

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 EA-11 NSF-04 EURE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSC-10 NSAE-00

PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15 RSR-01 INT-08 CG-00 /180 W

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P R 101735Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5499

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 3854

SCI/EN FOR HERTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, EEC, FR

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS A-127 B. STATE 130590 C. BONN 09747

1. ON JULY 9 A MISSION OFFICER DESCRIBED THE CONTENTS OF REF B TO CARPENTIER, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS. IN RESPONSE CARPENTIER MADE TWO PINTS. FIRST HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED FOR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. HE SAID WE SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY LEVEL OF COOPERATION WITH NON-EC
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COUNTRIES AS SOON AS IT GETS COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR ITS ENVIRON-

MENTAL PROGRAM (REF A). HE MENTIONED THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR MEMBER STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS ESTABLISHED LAST MARCH. HE SAID THERE IS THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COOPERATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO SUPPLEMENT THE OECD EARLY WARNING PROCEDURE.

2. CARPENTIER'S SECOND POINT DEALT WITH OUR INITIATIVES IN THE MEMBER STATE CAPITALS. HE THOUGHT THAT THEY MIGHT BE GENERALLY USEFUL, BUT CAUTIONED US THAT THE COMMISSION WAS HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FRENCH WHO HAVE RAISED SEVERAL LAST-MINUTE OBJECTIONS CENTERING ON THE COMMISSION'S ROLE IN RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. ONE OF THESE OBJECTIONS DEAL WITH MARINE POLLUTION WHICH FREQUENTLY IMPLIES CONTACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. ANOTHER OBJECTION IS A POINT (FOUND ON PAGE I. 2, PART I), OF THE COMMISSION'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH REF A. THIS POINT LISTS ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AS "ORGANIZING COOPERATION WITH STATES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO FIND COMMON SOLUTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ENGENDERED BY ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT." CARPENTIER SAID THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE FRENCH ARE TRYING TO FIND ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR "ORGANIZING COOPERATION" WHICH WOULD DE-EMPHASIZE THE APPEARANCE AT LEAST, OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTING FOR THE MEMBER STATES IN RELATIONS WITH NON-EC COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD. HE ADDED THAT IN LIGHT OF THIS DISPUTE THE FRENCH MIGHT MISINTERPRET A US INITIATIVE AS HAVING BEEN INSPIRED BY THE COMMISSION.

3. WE APPRECIATE THE TACTICAL PROBLEMS THE GERMANS SEE WITH THE FRENCH (REF C). AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE COMMISSION IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THIS QUESTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THE GERMANS AND THE DUTCH -- AND FOR THAT MATTER, AS MANY OTHER MEMBER STATES AS POSSIBLE -- SPOKE EXPLICITLY IN FAVOR OF AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION TO COOPERATE WITH NON-EC GOVERNMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD. IF THIS IS DONE, WE SEE NO REASON TO SINGLE OUT THE US BY NAME. INDEED, A GENERAL FORMULA BROAD ENOUGH TO INCLUDE THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD SEEM TO HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GAINING FRENCH ACCEPTANCE OR ACQUIESCENCE.

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